

## U.S. adults fracture along party lines in support for Ukraine military funding, AP-NORC poll finds

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — As Russia makes battlefield advances and Ukrainian soldiers run short on ammunition, U.S. adults have become fractured along party lines in their support for sending military aid to Kyiv, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Democrats are more likely to say the U.S. government is spending "too little" on funding for Ukraine than they were in November, but most Republicans remain convinced it's "too much." That divide is reflected in Congress, where the Democratic-held Senate — with help from 22 GOP senators — passed a \$95 billion package of aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan earlier this month. But the bill, which includes roughly \$60 billion in military support for Kyiv, has languished in the Republican-held House as Speaker Mike Johnson has so far refused to bring it up for a vote.

President Joe Biden, along with top Democrats and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, passionately urged the Republican speaker during a White House meeting this week



Ukrainians and their supporters carry a huge Ukrainian flag during a rally at the National Mall near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024.

Associated Press

to take up the foreign aid package, but Johnson responded by saying that Congress "must take care of America's needs first." Most Republicans still share Johnson's view, and their

opinions haven't changed significantly since the fall: 55% say the U.S. is spending too much on Ukraine aid, compared to 59% in November. Meanwhile, support for in-

creasing Ukraine aid has grown among Democrats. About 4 in 10 Democrats say the U.S. is spending "too little" on aid to Ukraine in the war against Russia, up from 17% in November.

The share of Democrats who say the U.S. is spending "too much" or "about the right amount" has also dropped over the same period.

Continued on next page

## Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM  
Full Service Bar  
Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com





**Continued from Front**

Chloe Henninger, 24, a Democrat from West Hartford, Connecticut, was among those who said the U.S. is spending too little on aid to Ukraine. She said it was important for the U.S. to show commitment to democracies like Ukraine that are under siege.

"From a humanitarian point of view, there were sovereign borders agreed upon internationally. And then an autocratic power went and invaded a sovereign territory. The U.S., as one of the major military forces in the world, sort of has a duty to respond," Henninger, who works as a cosmetic chemist, said.

The poll shows that two years after Russia's initial invasion, the Ukraine war has become a partisan dividing line: Majorities of Democrats think it's extremely or very important to prevent Russia from seizing more Ukrainian territory, to negotiate a permanent ceasefire between the two countries, help Ukraine regain its land and provide general aid to its military, while less than half of Republicans and Independents agree. Biden and Democratic leaders in Congress have cast the conflict in Ukraine — the largest land invasion in Europe since World War II — as a potential turning point in history. Failing to repel Russian President Vladimir Putin's assault, they warn, would have grave consequences, from destabilizing the rest of Europe to



**Airmen push over 8,000 pounds of 155 mm shells ultimately bound for Ukraine onto a C-17 aircraft for transport, April 29, 2022, at Dover Air Force Base, Del.**

**Associated Press**

emboldening other potential foes such as China and North Korea.

At the same time, Donald Trump, the former president who appears to be marching towards the Republican nomination, has injected serious doubts about America's involvement in Ukraine and the rest of the world. While McConnell, the top Republican in the Senate, has remained a strong advocate of robust American involvement abroad, Trump has swayed the party towards an isolationist stance, as well as at times heaped admiration on Putin's strongman style of rule. "We're throwing all this taxpayer money to Ukraine and to Israel, and we can't

even take care of our own people," said Jeffrey Jackson, a 55-year-old Republican from Granbury, Texas. "The U.S. government needs to take care of our own people and then worry about the rest of the world later."

Jackson also holds deeply unfavorable views of Biden and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. And while Jackson said he was not "pro-Putin," he liked the way Putin has led Russia more than how Biden has led the U.S.

Putin is broadly unpopular among U.S. adults, including Republicans. About 8 in 10 U.S. adults have an unfavorable opinion of Putin, including nearly 9 in 10 Dem-

ocrats and three-quarters of Republicans. Views of Zelenskyy are more reflective of the divisions over the war itself. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults have a favorable opinion of Zelenskyy, with Democrats having a more positive view than Republicans.

Trump has also cast doubt on whether he would uphold commitments to defend fellow NATO countries if he became president again. Jackson agreed with that sentiment, saying he would like to see NATO dismantled.

However, a majority of U.S. adults — including 52% of Republicans — support the spirit of Article V of the NATO military alliance, that an at-

tack on one NATO country represents an attack on all. Nearly 6 in 10 adults say they would favor the U.S. deploying U.S. troops to defend a U.S. NATO ally if it were attacked by Russian forces.

Still, when it comes to Ukraine, partisan divisions persist even on questions about basic diplomacy. For example, around 4 in 10 Republicans say that negotiating a permanent ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine should be an extremely or very important foreign policy goal for the U.S., compared to about 6 in 10 Democrats. Overall, half of adults say it's highly important for the U.S. to focus on stopping Russia from gaining more territory in Ukraine.

Six in 10 adults continue to support imposing economic sanctions on Russia. And half favor providing weapons. Chris Bahr, a 41-year-old from Houston, Texas, who described himself as libertarian politically, said he liked the fact that most of the funding for Ukraine would be spent on U.S.-made weapons. He wanted Congress to approve the aid package "as soon as possible."

"It helps another allied country defend itself and helps America economically — getting rid of a lot of our older weapons as we're ordering new stuff," Bahr said. "I think it would save lives in the long run just to not let Russia become expansionist again." □

## Judge orders Trump off Illinois primary ballot but puts ruling on hold



**Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump pumps his fist as he departs after speaking during the Conservative Political Action Conference, CPAC 2024, in Oxon Hill, Md., Feb. 24, 2024.**

**Associated Press**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — A Cook County judge ruled the Illinois State Board of Elections must take former President Donald Trump's name off the state's March 19 primary ballot Wednesday. But she placed her order on hold until Friday to allow an appeal.

Judge Tracie Porter issued her decision after a group of voters trying to remove Trump's name from the primary ballot over the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol sued to counter the election board's unanimous rejection of its effort. The five voters argued Trump is ineligible to hold

office because he encouraged and did little to stop the Capitol riot.

The case is one of dozens of lawsuits filed to remove Trump from the ballot, arguing he is ineligible due to a rarely used clause in the 14th Amendment prohibiting those who "engaged in insurrection" from holding office. The U.S. Supreme Court earlier this month signaled that it is likely to reject this strategy when it heard an appeal of a Colorado ruling removing Trump from the ballot there. Like the Illinois decision, that Colorado ruling is on hold until the appeal is finished.

Porter, in her 38-page ruling, wrote the petition by the group of voters should have been granted because they had met their burden and the Election Board's decision was "clearly erroneous."

"This is a historic victory," said Ron Fein, Legal Director of Free Speech For People, co-lead counsel in the case. "Every court or official that has addressed the merits of Trump's constitutional eligibility has found that he engaged in insurrection after taking the oath of office and is therefore disqualified from the presidency." □



# The House approves a short-term extension to avoid a shutdown. Senators are up next to vote

By KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed another short-term spending measure Thursday that would keep one set of federal agencies operating through March 8 and another set through March 22, avoiding a shutdown for parts of the federal government that would otherwise kick in Saturday. The Senate is expected to vote on the bill later in the day.

The short-term extension is the fourth in recent months, and many lawmakers expect it to be the last for the current fiscal year, including House Speaker Mike Johnson, who said that negotiators had completed six of the annual spending bills that fund federal agencies and had “almost final agreement on the others.” “We’ll get the job done,” Johnson said as he exited a closed-door meeting with Republican colleagues.

The vote to approve the extension was 320-99. It easily cleared the two-thirds majority needed for passage. Democrats overwhelmingly voted to avert a partial shutdown. But the vote was much more divided with



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., center, flanked by Rep. Blake Moore, R-Utah, left, and Rep. Beth Van Duyne, R-Texas, discusses President Joe Biden for his policies at the Mexican border during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024.

Associated Press

Republicans, 113 in support and 97 against.

At the end of the process, now expected to extend into late March, Congress is set to approve more than \$1.6 trillion in spending for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 roughly in line with the previous fiscal year. That’s the amount that former Speaker Kevin McCarthy negotiated with the

White House last year before eight disgruntled Republican lawmakers joined with Democrats a few months later and voted to oust him from the position.

Some of the House’s most conservative members wanted deeper cuts for non-defense programs than that agreement allowed through its spending caps. They also sought

an array of policy changes that Democrats opposed. They were hoping the prospect of a shutdown could leverage more concessions.

“Last I checked, the Republicans actually have a majority in the House of Representatives, but you wouldn’t know it if you looked at our checkbook because we are all too will-

ing to continue the policy choices of Joe Biden and the spending levels of Nancy Pelosi,” said Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

But Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, R-Tenn., countered before the vote that shutdowns are damaging and encouraged lawmakers to vote for the short-term extension.

“I want the American people to know Mr. Speaker that this negotiation has been difficult, but to close the government down at a time like this would hurt people who should not be hurt,” Fleischmann said.

The split within the GOP conference on spending and their tiny House majority has bogged down the efforts to get the bills passed on a timely basis. With the Senate also struggling to complete work on all 12 appropriations bills, lawmakers have resorted to a series of short-term measures to keep the government funded.

Republican leadership said that the broader funding legislation being teed up for votes in the next few weeks would lead to spending cuts for many nondefense agencies. □

# The third-party group No Labels will meet privately as it decides whether to launch a 2024 bid

By JONATHAN J. COOPER

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The third-

party presidential movement No Labels plans to meet next week to dis-

cuss its path forward as it decides whether to help launch an independent candidacy for the White House.

Candidates will not be chosen at the March 8 meeting, said Ryan Clancy, the No Labels chief strategist, in a statement. Instead, the meeting will be “a chance for our delegates to speak freely and honestly about the path ahead for our 2024 project.”

No Labels has drawn intense attention from Democratic critics of former President Donald Trump who worry the group could pull voters from President Joe

Biden. Having raised huge sums of money, No Labels has conducted many of its operations in private and fought efforts to disclose who is funding its movement.

Clancy said the meeting will gather 800 delegates from all 50 states who would be responsible for picking a presidential candidate if No Labels decides to go forward with what it’s calling a “unity ticket.” No Labels officials would not say who the 800 delegates are or how they were selected, despite promises last year to release detailed plans for how it would make a

decision.

The media will be barred from the meeting. No Labels already canceled plans for a springtime convention in Dallas.

Complaining that Americans don’t want a rematch between Trump and Biden, No Labels has stockpiled cash from secret donors and worked to secure ballot access in every state. Its leaders have said they’ll give their ballot line to a bipartisan ticket with a presidential candidate from one major party and a vice presidential nominee from the other if they see a viable path to victory. □



People with the group No Labels hold signs during a rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 13, 2013.

Associated Press



# Jeffrey Epstein grand jury records from underage girl abuse probe to be released under Florida law

By **CURT ANDERSON**  
Associated Press

Grand jury transcripts from a 2006 Florida investigation into Jeffrey Epstein's abuse of dozens of underage girls will be released publicly later this year under legislation signed into law Thursday by Gov. Ron DeSantis. A local judge cited the new law in denying release of the records for now.

The measure, which takes effect July 1, would carve out a limited exception to the secrecy that generally shrouds grand jury testimony in specific cases such as that involving Epstein, DeSantis said at a signing ceremony in Palm Beach, Florida, where many of the crimes took place at Epstein's home.

"There needs to be a mechanism in some of these rare circumstances where people can get the truth," the Republican governor said. "This is in the interest of justice to disclose this. We don't think we can just turn a blind eye."

Epstein, a wealthy financier, cut a deal with South Florida federal prosecutors



**Gov. Ron DeSantis holds up a bill he signed at the Palm Beach Police Department, Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, in Palm Beach, Fla., meant to release secret documents detailing the proceedings of a 2006 Palm Beach County grand jury that issued only one criminal prostitution-related charge against Jeffrey Epstein despite police uncovering dozens of victims.**

in 2008 that allowed him to escape more severe federal charges and instead plead guilty to state charges of procuring a person under 18 for prostitution and solicitation of prostitu-

tion. He was sentenced to 18 months in the Palm Beach County jail system, followed by 12 months of house arrest. He was required to register as a sex offender.

"What happened was clearly wrong and the punishment was wholly inadequate for the crime," DeSantis said.

Epstein in 2018 was charged with federal sex trafficking

Associated Press

crimes in New York where he also had a mansion that was a scene of abuse after the Miami Herald published a series of articles that renewed public focus on the case, including interviews with some victims who had been pursuing civil lawsuits against him. Epstein was 66 when he killed himself in a New York City jail cell in August 2019, federal officials say.

Epstein's former girlfriend, socialite Ghislaine Maxwell, is serving a 20-year prison sentence after being convicted in 2021 of luring girls to his homes to be molested.

Haley Robson, who was victimized by Epstein as a 16-year-old high school student in Florida, said she and others like her are grateful for the closure that release of the grand jury records would mean. The Associated Press does not generally report names of sexual assault victims unless they consent, and Robson appeared at the governor's news conference to share her thoughts publicly. □

# Former US ambassador admits to working for decades as Cuban intelligence agent

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN**  
and **JIM MUSTIAN**  
Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — A former career U.S. diplomat said in court Thursday that he will plead guilty to charges of serving as a secret agent for communist Cuba going back decades, bringing a lightning fast resolution to a case prosecutors described as one of the most brazen betrayals in the history of the U.S. foreign service. Manuel Rocha, 73, told a federal judge he would admit to two federal counts of conspiring to act as an agent of a foreign government, charges that carry a maximum penalty of between 5 and 10 years in prison each. In exchange, prosecutors agreed to

drop 13 additional counts for crimes including wire fraud and making false statements.

Prosecutors and Rocha's attorney indicated they have agreed upon a sen-

tence but details were not disclosed in court Thursday. He is due back in court on April 12, when he's likely to be sentenced.

"I am in agreement," said Rocha, shackled at the



**Manuel Rocha sits in his office at Steel Hector & Davis in Miami in January 2003, joining the firm to help open doors in Latin America.**

Associated Press

hands and ankles, when asked by U.S. District Court Judge Beth Bloom if he wished to change his plea to guilty. Rocha was arrested by the FBI at his Miami home in December on allegations that he engaged in "clandestine activity" on Cuba's behalf since at least 1981 the year he joined the U.S. foreign service including by meeting with Cuban intelligence operatives and providing false information to U.S. government officials about his contacts.

Federal authorities have said little about exactly what Rocha did to assist Cuba while working at the State Department for two decades at posts in Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico and the U.S. Interests Section

in Havana. He followed that with a lucrative post-government career that included a stint as a special adviser to the commander of the U.S. Southern Command. Instead, the case relies largely on what prosecutors say were Rocha's own admissions, made over the past year to an undercover FBI agent posing as a Cuban intelligence operative named "Miguel."

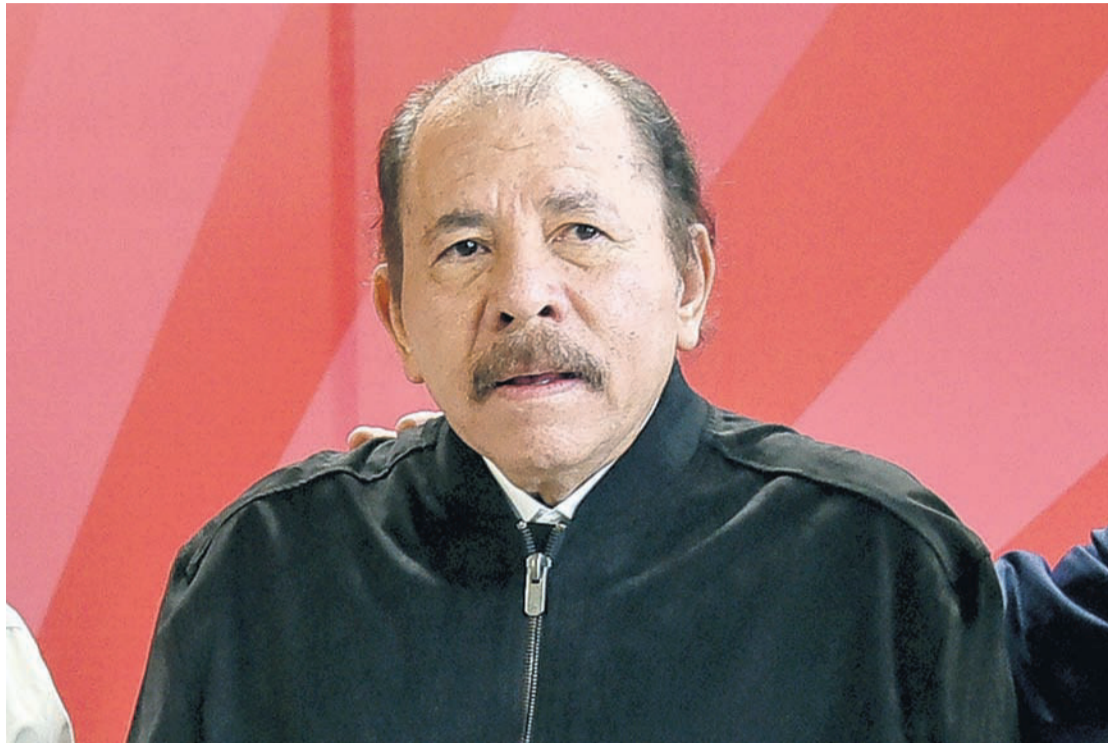
In those recordings, Rocha praised the late Cuban leader Fidel Castro as "Comandante," branded the U.S. the "enemy" and bragged about his service for more than 40 years as a Cuban mole in the heart of U.S. foreign policy circles, the complaint says. □



## U.N. experts accuse Nicaragua's government of abuses 'tantamount to crimes against humanity'

By MEGAN JANETSKY  
Associated Press

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — A panel of U.N.-backed human rights experts on Thursday accused Nicaragua's government of systematic human rights abuses "tantamount to crimes against humanity," implicating a range of high-ranking officials in the government of President Daniel Ortega. The allegations follow an investigation into the country's expanding crackdown on political dissent. The Ortega government has gone after opponents for years, but it hit a turning point with mass protests against the government in 2018 that resulted in violent repression by authorities. In the past year, repression has expanded to large swaths of society with a focus on "incapacitating any kind of opposition in the long term," according to the independent group of U.N. experts investigating the issue since March 2022. The experts do not speak for the world body, but work under a mandate from the Human Rights Council.



Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega poses for a photo during the ALBA Summit at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, Cuba, Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021.

"Serious systematic human rights violations, tantamount to crimes against humanity, continue to be perpetrated by the Nicaraguan government for political reasons," the group said in a statement. Jan Simon, an expert who headed the investigation, said at a news conference

Thursday in Geneva that the Nicaraguan government's persecution targets "all forms of opposition, whether real or perceived, both domestically and abroad." The state has targeted civilians, including university students, Indigenous and Black Nicaraguans, and

members of the Catholic Church. Children and family members are now targeted simply for being related to people who raise their voices against the government. Ortega's government has repeatedly said that the mass demonstrations against it in 2018 constitut-

ed a failed coup attempt orchestrated by the United States, and typically defends any repression as a crackdown on anti-government plots. The government did not immediately respond to emailed request for comment on the report Thursday. The human rights report, which came after hundreds of interviews, implicated a number of high ranking officials in crackdowns that have firmly consolidated power in the hands of Ortega and his Vice President Rosario Murillo. The report says Gustavo Porras, the head of the country's National Assembly, pushes through legislation to facilitate repression. It says Marvin Aguilar García, the head of the Supreme Court, takes direct orders from Ortega's government, and commands lower level judges to fall in line. Meanwhile, Chief Prosecutor Ana Julia Guido Ochoa's office fabricates evidence against real or perceived opponents, the report says. □

Associated Press

## Canada reimposes a visa requirement on Mexicans

By ROB GILLIES  
Associated Press

**TORONTO (AP)** — Canada's government is reimposing the visa requirements on Mexican nationals visiting Canada, the immigration minister announced Thursday. Quebec's premier has been urging the Canadian government to slow the influx of immigrants, which he says has been straining resources. The U.S. government also urged Canada to take action as some Mexicans have been crossing illegally into the U.S. from Canada. Immigration Minister Marc Miller said that the new rules take effect late Thursday.

"We have seen exponential growth in asylum claims particularly from Mexican nationals in the last year," Miller said. Miller said Mexico accounted for 17% of all asylum claims received by Canada from around the world, and said most claims from Mexico are either rejected, withdrawn or abandoned, so a change was needed. "Claims that don't even have the prospect of success put a pressure on the system and put a pressure on the social supports that these people get," he said. "It has ripple effects across the system." Miller said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised this issue with Mexi-

co's president every time he spoke with him, and said not enough was being done to decrease the numbers. Trudeau's government lifted the visa requirement for Mexican visitors in late 2016, removing a major irritant in relations between the two countries. But Immigration Department data show asylum claims from Mexico have spiked dramatically. In 2015, there were only 110 such claims, but the number jumped to nearly 24,000 last year. The Quebec government has been calling on Ottawa to reimburse 1 billion Canadian dollars (\$740 million) the amount the prov-



Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks during a news conference on housing in Vancouver, Canada, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024.

ince has said it has spent on a growing number of asylum-seekers. Miller said that Canada's relationship with the U.S. is also a factor. "We have seen a number of claimants cross into the United States," Miller said. "They are nothing com-

pared to what the U.S. is facing with respect to their southern border." "But they are significant, and they have increased dramatically in the last year or two," he said. "And that's something we have to manage as a partner with the U.S." □

Associated Press



# Putin warns that sending Western troops to Ukraine risks a global nuclear war

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**  
Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed Thursday to fulfill Moscow's goals in Ukraine and sternly warned the West against deeper involvement in the fighting, saying that such a move is fraught with the risk of a global nuclear conflict.

Putin's blunt warning came in a state-of-the-nation address ahead of next month's election he's all but certain to win, underlining his readiness to raise the stakes in the tug-of-war with the West to protect the Russian gains in Ukraine. In an apparent reference to French President Emmanuel Macron's statement earlier this week that the future deployment of Western ground troops to Ukraine should not be "ruled out", Putin warned that it would lead to "tragic" consequences for the countries who decide to do that.

Putin noted that while accusing Russia of plans to attack NATO allies in Europe, Western allies were "selecting targets for striking our territory" and "talking about the possibility of



**Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his state-of-the-nation address in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024.**

Associated Press

sending a NATO contingent to Ukraine."

"We remember the fate of those who sent their troop contingents to the territory of our country," the Russian leader said in an apparent allusion to the failed invasions by Napoleon and Hitler. "Now the consequences for the potential invaders will be far more tragic." In a two-hour speech before an audience of law-

makers and top officials, Putin cast Western leaders as reckless and irresponsible and declared that the West should keep in mind that "we also have the weapons that can strike targets on their territory, and what they are now suggesting and scaring the world with, all that raises the real threat of a nuclear conflict that will mean the destruction of our civiliza-

tion." The strong statement followed earlier warnings from Putin, who has issued frequent reminders of Russia's nuclear might since he sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022 as he sought to discourage the West from expanding its military support for Kyiv. Putin emphasized that Russia's nuclear forces are in "full readiness," saying that

the military has deployed potent new weapons, some of them tested on the battlefield in Ukraine.

The Kremlin leader said they include the new Sarmat heavy intercontinental ballistic missile that has entered service with Russian nuclear forces, along with the Burevestnik atomic-powered cruise missile and the Poseidon atomic-powered, nuclear-armed drone, which are completing their tests.

At the same time, he rejected Western leaders' statements about the threat of a Russian attack on NATO allies in Europe as "ravings" and again dismissed Washington's claim that Moscow was pondering the deployment of space-based nuclear weapons.

Putin charged that the U.S. allegations were part of a ploy to draw Russia into talks on nuclear arms control on American terms even as Washington continues its efforts to deliver a "strategic defeat" to Moscow in Ukraine.

"Ahead of the U.S. election, they just want to show their citizens, as well as others, that they continue to rule the world," he said. □

# The Dutch government has spent \$180M dealing with the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17

By **MIKE CORDER** Associated Press

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — The Dutch government has spent more than 166 million euros (\$180 million) dealing with the aftermath of the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine in 2014, from repatriating victims' bodies to investigating and prosecuting some of those involved in the downing, according to an official report Thursday. The Boeing 777 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down on July 17, 2014, using a Russian-made Buk missile fired from territory in eastern Ukraine controlled by separatist

rebels. All 298 passengers and crew were killed, including 196 Dutch citizens. A Dutch court convicted



**Journalists take images of part of the reconstructed forward section of the fuselage after the presentation of the Dutch Safety Board's final report into what caused Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 to break up high over Eastern Ukraine, during a press conference in Gilze-Rijen, Netherlands, Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2015.**

Associated Press

two Russians and a pro-Moscow Ukrainian in November 2022 of involvement in the downing and sentenced them to life imprisonment. They were tried in absentia and have not been detained to serve their sentences.

The court ruled that the missile and its launcher were driven into Ukraine from a military base in Russia and the launcher returned to Russia afterward.

The trial and the massive international investigation that preceded it cost a total of more than 87 million euros, according to the Netherlands Court of Audit, which calculated costs through the end of 2022.

The total does not include about 16.5 million euros that the Dutch government paid to next of kin last year as an advance on compensation that the Dutch court ordered the three men convicted in the downing of MH17 to pay.

"This compensation should ultimately be paid by the perpetrators, but it is open to question whether they will," the report said.

The Dutch government asked the independent auditor to estimate the costs as it intends to seek compensation from Russia in a case the Netherlands and Australia filed at the International Civil Aviation Organization. □



## Did you know about...?

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called *Did you know about...?*, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called *Dos placa*; 10-cent coins were called *debchi*; 25-cent coins were called *diez placa* and the 50-cent coin was once called *Yotin* (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called *placa too*. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

### Current design and symbolism

#### 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a *Turtuga blanco* (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the *Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins*, a coral motif, and the symbols of *Cas Floria* (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

#### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called *Sho-shoro*. The birds *Trupiaal*, *Shoco*, rock drawings, and the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a *Purun di ceramica* (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

#### 50 florin

On this bill, we see the *Cododo* (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), *Cangreu di tera* (land crab), *Willem III Tower*, and again the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called *Bana di rif*. The colors are pink/purple.

#### 100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the *Yuwana* (Iguana), *Aloe*, *Toteki* (lizard), the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the *Baile di cinta* (folkloric

dance with silk ribbons).

#### 200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the *Dornasol* and the *Warawara*—both local birds, along with the symbols of *Cas Floria* with a piece of mosaic, the *Tuna cactus* plant, and the *Caha di orgel* (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

#### Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



shutterstock.com • 156859580





## Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

**ST. CRUZ** — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least

Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

### Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in

Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are

forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized

vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!



## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

**(Oranjestad)**—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

- Police: 100
- Police Tipline: 11141
- Ambulance: 911
- Fire Dept: 115
- Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000
- San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally

though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$50 an hour.

### Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



**Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.**

**50/30**  
*Friday!*

We're giving away  
**\$50 Free Slot Play**  
to lucky slot and table  
game players every  
**30 minutes** from  
7pm to Midnight!

**THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**

Aruba Tours & Adventures | Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe  
Behind The Mask | Juan Valdez Café | Baskin-Robbins  
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market | M8 Boutique  
Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa  
Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More | Twist of Flavors  
The Lazy Lizard | Dunkin Donuts | Shalom Hair & Nails Bar  
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | Curated Lab

*Alhambra*  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



**Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas**

**SAN NICOLAS—** At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

**Flow of history**

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of

Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of ed-

ucation or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals



are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

**Must See, Do, Buy & Eat**

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in dis-

covering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

**Aruba to me**



**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to:

[news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well

as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.



## Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor



**At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.**

### Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach. Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

### About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

### Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

#### Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would

walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

#### Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

### How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with

Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

### Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

### The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.



# Aruba: the legend behind its name

**(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.**

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names\*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: *Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua)* by Adolf (Dufi) Kock





**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 45 Floppy top

1 Betrayed nervousness  
46 Convenient

6 Accords

11 Texas mission

12 Isolated

13 Harrow blades

14 Historic riveter

15 Abound

17 Word on an octagon

18 Diamond corner

20 Makes a choice

22 Imitating

23 Meaty stew

26 Wanderer

28 Physicist Nikola

29 Yarns

31 Bit of wordplay

32 Lights-out tune

33 Table parts

34 Son of Zeus

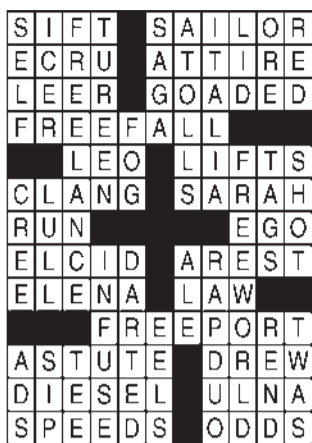
36 Barking beast

38 Sewell of Dark City

40 Oklahoma city

43 Find darling

44 Sing like Bing



Yesterday's answer

**DOWN**

1 Knee protector

2 Boxing great

3 Chooses at the polls

4 Game host

5 Rx info

6 Hole number

7 John or Paul

8 Bewitches

9 Jazz combo

10 Dance unit

16 Barn sound

18 Lockup feature

19 Oodles

21 Places

23 Hold tightly

24 Wallop

25 Painter Holbein

27 Result of a mistake

30 Scrollwork shape

33 George W's wife

34 Swift horse

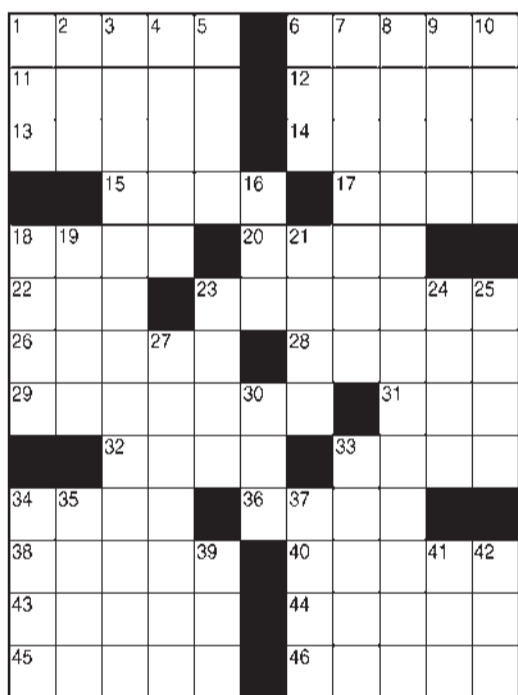
35 Uncivil

37 Make printing plates

39 Harden

41 Lawn material

42 One or more



3-1

A XYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-1 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

ETALX, VXCO RTKP TAC

FCGGUOF WBOF, WCG GXK

FABVUOF XBQAP NC PGABOF

GB PCG AUFXG PBEC VUOGAK

VABOF. — LTABWUOC ETK

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL YOU LEAPLINGS BORN ON FEBRUARY 29! — FROM YOUR PUZZLE FRIENDS

# Fighting over money? Ways to seek common ground with your partner

By KIMBERLY PALMER of NerdWallet

Figuring out how to manage money together might be an important part of a happy relationship, but it's a skill that doesn't always come naturally.

"When there's conflict or discord, it's usually not about the money itself, but related to the meaning each person is attaching to money. There's always something deeper," says Cohen Taylor, a licensed family and marriage therapist and behavioral wealth specialist at the registered investment advisory Wealth Enhancement Group.

Getting on the same page as your partner when it comes to finances usually requires a lot of communication and sometimes a little compromise. In some cases, it might include realizing your perception of your partner's spending habits isn't entirely accurate.

Here are tips from financial experts on how to see money as an issue to bond over rather than a source of tension.

**EXPECT AND PREPARE FOR CONFLICT**

Before getting serious with your partner, ask them how they learned about finances as a child, Taylor suggests.

"We all have these childhood experiences or flashpoints in our lives that create these core beliefs related to money," she says. If you were told to always save for a rainy day, for example, you might be deeply uncomfortable spending money unless there's an emergency. Taylor adds that because



In this June 27, 2018, file photo a couple is silhouetted against moonlight reflecting off the Missouri River as they watch the full moon rise beyond downtown buildings in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

we are often attracted to people with money personalities opposite our own, it's important to understand those differences.

Expecting conflict and preparing to navigate it together can be healthy, says Laura J. LaTourette, certified financial planner and founder of the Family Wealth Management Group.

"If you just lean into conflict, it won't be so scary when you get there," she says, adding that healthy conflict management includes lots of communication.

**SET GROUND RULES**

Taylor suggests creating some guidelines you both agree on, such as that any expenditure over \$200 requires a conversation first. Then, you can continuously adjust those guidelines as needs and circumstances change.

In blended families where children are involved, those money discussions are especially important, says Mikel Van Cleve, a fi-

ancial behavior specialist researching financial management within blended families at Texas Tech University.

"You need clear boundaries and rules so everyone knows their role within the blended family dynamic," he says. For example, decide in advance how the adults will share expenses related to the children's car insurance, cell phone plans and college, which can get complicated.

**ESTABLISH REGULAR CHECK-INS**

"Most successful money couples I've dealt with set up a recurring cadence to talk about money," says Andrew Crowell, vice chairman of wealth management at D.A. Davidson, a financial services firm. That could mean a quarterly or monthly review and includes revisiting spending, savings goals and budgets.

Those meetings can provide a chance to sync on how to trim spending together or to do something fun like set a vacation savings goal, Crowell says. They can also provide a safe space to express worries about credit card debt and similar topics. He suggests starting by sharing your feelings, such as, "I'm feeling worried about our finances," versus criticizing the other person's spending. □

**Honey Dolls**  
 MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE  
**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
 Pick-up & Delivery  
 Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders  
 ☎ +297 565-9535  
 WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM



# Our ancient animal ancestors had tails. Why don't we?

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**  
**AP Science Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Our very ancient animal ancestors had tails. Why don't we?

Somewhere around 20 million or 25 million years ago, when apes diverged from monkeys, our branch of the tree of life shed its tail. From Darwin's time, scientists have wondered why and how this happened. Now, researchers have identified at least one of the key genetic tweaks that led to this change.

"We found a single mutation in a very important gene," said Bo Xia, a geneticist at the Broad Institute and co-author of a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

The researchers compared the genomes of six species of apes, including humans, and 15 species of monkeys with tails to pinpoint key differences between the groups. Once they identified a significant mutation, they tested their theory by using the gene-editing tool CRISPR to tweak the same spot in mouse embryos. Those mice were born without tails.

Xia cautioned that other genetic changes may also play a role in losing tails.

Another mystery: Did having no tails actually help these ape ancestors -- and eventually, humans survive? Or was it just a chance mutation in a population that thrived for other reasons?

"It could be random chance, but it could have brought a big evolutionary advantage," said Miriam Konkel, an evolutionary geneticist at Clemson University, who was not involved in the study.

As to why having no tails may have helped, there are many tantalizing theories including some that link being tailless to humans eventually learning to walk upright.

Rick Potts, who directs the Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Project and



Skeletons of a human and a monkey await installation at the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History in Tel Aviv, Israel on Monday, Feb 19, 2018.

was not involved in the research, suggests being tailless may have been a first step toward some apes adopting a vertical body posture, even before they left the trees.

Not all apes live on the ground today. Orangutans and gibbons are tailless apes that still live in trees. But Potts notes that they move very differently than monkeys, who scamper along the tops of

branches, using their tails for balance. Those apes hang below branches, swinging between them while hanging largely upright.

New York University biologist Itai Yanai, a co-author of the study, said that losing our tails was clearly a major transition. But the only way to certainly know the reason "would be to invent a time machine," he said. □

Associated Press



**Editor**  
 Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
 Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
 Acc. #23951903  
 RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

**Editors**

Pilar Flores  
 Richard Brooks  
 Angenette Figuero

**Sales**

Mark Gomes  
 Sulaika Croes

**Classifieds**

classified@cspnv.com

**Distribution and Collection**

accounting@bondia.com

**Social / Website**

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22  
 T: 582-7800  
 E: news@arubatoday.com  
 W: www.arubatoday.com  
 @arubatoday



**HEALTH**

**DOCTOR ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad**

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
 Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**

Imsan 24 hours  
 Tel. 524 8833

**PHARMACY ON DUTY**

Oranjestad:  
 Oduber : Tel. 582 1780  
 Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

Women in Difficulties

**OTHER**

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
 Urgent Care 586 0448  
 Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
 +297 588 0539

**EMERGENCY**

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

**TAXI SERVICES**

Taxi Tax	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

**TRAVEL INFO**

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

**AID FOUNDATIONS**

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
 Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
 Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
 Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
 Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
 Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

**General Info**

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook



facebook.com/arubatoday/



## Once doomed to cult status, the animated satire 'Clone High' finds a new life on Max

By **MARK KENNEDY**  
AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — In one of the weirdest high schools in history, Cleopatra is dating class president Frida Kahlo and John F. Kennedy's best friend is Abraham Lincoln. This is "Clone High," a cult animated show that's enjoying a new life on the streamer Max some two decades after it was abruptly canceled by MTV.

"We've learned a lot in the 20 years since we made the show originally," says Chris Miller, who created "Clone High" with Bill Lawrence and Phil Lord. "Revisiting where we started but bringing it into the 2020s seemed like a fun and interesting opportunity."

"Clone High" is populated by the teenage clones of notable historical figures, going through the highs and lows of high school. Joan of Arc is an angsty Goth, and Confucius is sweet and a little dim, with a fondness for social media. Friends navigate love and friendship, describing each other as "my brother



This image released by Max shows animated characters Abe Lincoln, voiced by Will Forte, right, and JFK, voiced by Christopher Miller, in a scene from "Clone High."

Associated Press

from another beaker." "The main premise of the show is that the iconic people of history that we all look up to were probably scared teenagers," says Lord. "Their competence is overstated and they're judged by their best moments. We're going to show their weakest ones." In the latest batch of

shows, the cool new science teacher with impressive shoulder-length hair, dressed in jeans and a blazer and carrying a luxurious leather satchel is a lampooning of charismatic leaders like in "Dead Poets Society." Episode 3 finds Clone High being turned into a religious school so the evil admin-

istrators can avoid taxes. (They shop at Bed, Baptist and Beyond to a ridiculous mock Christian rock song.) Kennedy, tired of meaningless sex, goes celibate. "There's very little that's off limits. Only if it's not funny is it off limits," says Lord. "We have a really great staff of writers who have a lot of very strong opinions and a

lot to say so we try to be the guys who say yes."

"Clone High" also featuring such figures as Genghis Khan, George Washington Carver, Marie Curie and Vincent Van Gogh first landed in 2003 among other animated adult fare like "Beavis and Butt-Head," "South Park" and "The Simpsons."

It lasted a year. The inclusion of a clone of Mahatma Gandhi, depicted as a party animal and a womanizer, led to protests and hunger strikes, ultimately getting the plug pulled on the show.

Lawrence would go on to create "Cougar Town" and "Ted Lasso," while Lord and Miller helped craft "The Lego Movie," "21 Jump Street," "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" and "The Afterparty."

"South Park" and "The Simpsons" are still going and even Beavis and Butt-Head has gotten a reboot so it made sense to bring back "Clone High" last year. □

## Winfrey leaving WeightWatchers board, donating all of her interest in the company to a museum

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**  
AP Business Writer

Former talk show host Oprah Winfrey is leaving WeightWatchers board of directors and donating all of her interest in the company to a museum.

Shares of WW International Inc. tumbled more than 23% in Thursday morning trading.

Winfrey, who told People magazine in December that she was using a weight-loss medication, has served on the company's board since 2015. She will not stand for re-election at WeightWatchers annual meeting in May.

WW International said in a regulatory filing that Winfrey's decision "was not the result of any disagreement with the company on any

matter relating to the company's operations, policies or practices." The size of its board will go from 10 to nine members following its

annual meeting, the New York company added.

"I look forward to continuing to advise and collaborate with WeightWatchers

and CEO Sima Sistani in elevating the conversation around recognizing obesity as a chronic condition, working to reduce stigma, and advocating for health equity," Winfrey said.

According to FactSet, Winfrey's stake of about 1.1 million shares made her the company's largest individual shareholder, with a stake of 1.43%.

Winfrey said that she will donate her interest in WeightWatchers to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, part of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. The company said that it supports Winfrey's decision to donate all of her stake to the museum during WeightWatchers upcoming trading window in March.

"Ms. Winfrey is making the donation to support the NMAAHC's goal to promote and highlight the contributions of African Americans and to eliminate any perceived conflict of interest around her taking weight loss medications," the company said. "In addition, Ms. Winfrey intends to donate the proceeds from any future exercises of her WW stock options to NMAAHC."

Nearly a year ago, WeightWatchers said it too was getting into the prescription drug weight loss business with a \$106 million deal to buy Sequence, a telehealth provider with annual revenue of about \$25 million and about 24,000 members. □



In this March 6, 2018 file photo, Oprah Winfrey attends The Museum of Modern Art's David Rockefeller Award Luncheon honoring Oprah Winfrey at the Ziegfeld Ballroom in New York.

Associated Press



## Analysis: Big Ten and SEC power play undermines credibility of playoff, marginalizes ACC and Big 12

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer  
The College Football Playoff unveiled a 12-team format in the spring of 2021 that looked like an exciting step in the evolution of the postseason, with potential to lift the sport's national profile even further while boosting all five power conferences and keeping the other five relevant. Three years later, the expanded playoff fans were promised is not what they are getting. It has been twisted and distorted by conference realignment and greed, with more changes being proposed that nobody outside of a few beneficiaries want.

There will be at least two 12-team playoffs, this season and next, but the Power Five is now down to four (RIP, Pac-12), dominated by a Big Two: The Southeastern Conference and Big Ten have decided to throw their weight around to protect their own interests with little regard for what's best for college football.

Last week, CFP officials acknowledged publicly they are already looking into



The College Football Playoff logo is printed across a backdrop during a news conference where the 13 members of the committee were announced, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013, in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press

expanding to 14 or more teams, starting in 2026. Those discussions were prompted, at least in part, by the Big Ten and SEC demanding they get more access to the CFP field in the form of automatic bids.

So now, the conference commissioners who manage CFP are considering a 14-team model that in-

cludes 11 automatic bids: Three each for the Big Ten and SEC, two each for the Big 12 and Atlantic Coast Conference, and one for the top team from the Group of Five conferences. So instead of the current model which reserves slots for the five highest-ranked conference champions, regardless of conference, and seven at-large

bids the 3-3-2-2-1 model would grant automatic-qualifier status to six teams that don't even win their leagues.

If you think that sounds bad, it is better than giving the SEC and Big Ten four auto-bids each, which they also suggested.

This is far from a done deal. The commissioners still need to bring it back to their

member schools. Expect some pushback, especially out of the Big 12 and ACC. "I'm not involved in the negotiations of the CFP extension, but it feels as though there's two conferences that are trying to stack the deck vs. everyone else, and that's potentially going to create a competitive inequity that I don't think is good." TCU athletic director Jeremiah Donati told reporters Wednesday before the latest news about a 3-3-2-2-1 model was even reported. "I don't think it's good for college football." Objections might not matter. The Big Ten and SEC hold all the leverage. They could very well cut the rest of college football out altogether, do their own playoff and keep all the money instead of most of it, which is what they want.

It's also notable that expanding the field from 12 to 14 or even 16 is not likely to bring in more money. ESPN has a six-year offer worth about \$7.8 billion on the table and another first-round game or two isn't changing that.

Everything about this screams solution in search

of a problem.

The Big Ten will grow to 18 teams next season after having poached USC, UCLA, Oregon and Washington from the Pac-12, basically pushing its longtime Rose Bowl partner off a cliff.

The SEC will have 16 teams, adding Texas and Oklahoma. The Big 12 survived the loss of its bell cows by raiding the Pac-12 and the American Athletic Conference, but is now realizing that it is no longer a football peer to the SEC and Big Ten, with their mega-media rights contracts and joint advisory committee.

Of the top 15 teams in last season's final AP Top 25 college football poll, 12 will reside in either the SEC (seven) or Big Ten (five) next season. □

## Medvedev and Rublev advance to Dubai semifinals. Humbert saves 3 match points to beat Hurkacz

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev stayed on course toward a potential rematch for the title at the Dubai Championships after the Russians won their quarterfinals Thursday.

Medvedev, the defending champion and No. 1 seed, defeated eighth-seeded Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-2, 6-3 to set up a semifinal against fifth-seeded Ugo Humbert.

The second-seeded Rublev advanced when Sebastian Korda retired with an unspecified injury. Rublev was up 6-4, 4-3 at the time. Rublev will face seventh-

seeded Alexander Bublik, who reached the last four after his Czech opponent Jiri Lehecka also retired with an injury. The big-serving Bublik was leading 6-4, 4-1. One year ago, Medvedev defeated Rublev 6-2, 6-2 in the all-Russian final at the hard-court tournament. The 2021 U.S. Open champion has 20 singles titles 18 on hard courts but has never won the same event twice.

Humbert advanced by beating third-seeded Hubert Hurkacz 3-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3 in the last match of the evening. The Frenchman saved three match points in the second-set tiebreak-

er en route to his second win over Hurkacz since los-

ing to him at the Australian Open in January. □



Daniil Medvedev returns the ball to Alejandro Fokina of Spain during a quarter final match of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024.

Associated Press



# Rory McIlroy not bothered by Masters 'asterisk' comments from LIV Golf's Talor Gooch

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Sports Writer

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.**

**(AP)** — Here's how things seem to work regarding LIV Golf and Rory McIlroy: Someone says something, the other side responds, and the cycle just keeps repeating from one topic to the next.

The latest chapters of the saga came Wednesday, when McIlroy said he wanted to give LIV player Talor Gooch "the benefit of the doubt" over comments he made saying if the world's No. 2-ranked player wins the Masters to complete the career Grand Slam the accomplishment should come with an asterisk because some players who have signed with Saudi-funded LIV cannot play at Augusta National since they have fallen out of the top 50 in the world ranking. "The Masters is an invitation and they'll invite whoever they think warrants an invite," said McIlroy, who'll play in the Cognizant Classic that starts Thursday at PGA National the site of what used to be called the Honda Classic. "I think to be fair to Talor, if you read the entire ... the question and then the answer, it's not as if he just came out with



**Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, waits to putt on the ninth green during the final round of the Genesis Invitational golf tournament at Riviera Country Club, Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024, in the Pacific Palisades area of, Los Angeles.**

that. I feel like whoever did the interview led him down that path to say that, so I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt there a little bit. He just agreed with what the interviewer asked." Gooch made the comment to Australian Golf Digest, published earlier this week. Gooch who is not in the Masters field at this point, presumably because his world ranking has plummeted since LIV events do

not count in that formula said "If Rory McIlroy goes and completes his Grand Slam without some of the best players in the world, there's just going to be an asterisk. It's just the reality. I think everybody wins whenever the majors figure out a way to get the best players in the world there." McIlroy a three-time FedExCup champion will be playing in the Masters for the 16th consecutive year.

He lost a four-shot lead in the final round of 2011, played in the final group with winner Patrick Reed in 2018 and his best result was runner-up in 2022, three shots behind Scottie Scheffler. Gooch has played in the Masters twice. He tied for 14th in 2022 and tied for 34th last year, and has won three times since joining LIV. But that wasn't enough to merit an invitation. LIV's

**Associated Press**

Joaquin Niemann got a special invitation from Augusta National last week after he won the Australian Open in December, finished fifth in the Australian PGA and tied for fourth in the Dubai Desert Classic four shots behind McIlroy.

"I played with him a few weeks ago in Dubai, and he went down to Australia and won," McIlroy said about Niemann. "He was in Oman last week. He has been chasing his tail around the world to get this, play his way into Augusta or show enough form to warrant an invite. I don't know if the same can be said for Talor."

If McIlroy wins the Masters, he would join Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as those who have claimed the men's career Grand Slam. McIlroy has offered countless comments on LIV and golfers heading there in recent years, ranging from outrage ("I hate what it's doing to the game of golf. I hate it. I really do," he said after winning the FedExCup in August 2022) to eventually striking a more conciliatory tone ("I can't judge people for making that decision," he said in recent months). □

# Son of Blue Jays' Erik Swanson out of pediatric intensive care after being hit by car

**LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)** — Toronto Blue Jays reliever Erik Swanson's son Toby has been discharged from the pediatric intensive care unit.

The 4-year-old boy was hit by a car Sunday in Clearwater and was airlifted in critical condition to Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg.

Swanson's wife, Madison, shared the update on her son's recovery in an Instagram story Wednesday night.

"We have been overwhelmed with a huge amount of love and sup-

port over the last few days," she wrote.

"The most important update is that Toby is out of the PICU and we are continuing to take it day by day."

Police and fire crews responded to a struck pedestrian call Sunday morning in Clearwater involving a young boy who sustained potentially life-threatening injuries, Clearwater Police said Tuesday in a news release.

"We are so grateful for the speedy first responders to the accident, to the pedestrians that helped as

we waited the next step, and to the amazing staff at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital," Madison Swanson wrote on Instagram. "Someone has truly been watching over my little man."

The child was struck by a 2024 Ford Expedition being operated by a valet driver near the Opal Sands Resort, according to an updated release issued by public information officer Rob Shaw.

The driver remained on scene and was co-operating with the investigation, the release said. □



**Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Erik Swanson walks to the dugout during a pitching change in the seventh inning of Game 2 of an AL wild-card baseball playoff series against the Minnesota Twins, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, in Minneapolis.**

**Associated Press**